VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 8 February 1992

THE MUNI MEMO

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL RAILWAY

ALOHA!

Muni's Annual Awards Drawing and Reception at Oz at the top of the Westin St. Francis Hotel on Thursday, January 16th turned out to be a grand success. Mayor Frank Jordan, who attended the reception as his first official civic event, praised Muni employees for their service to the public while acknowledging the difficult budgetary times that lie ahead.

Muni locksmith Lee Most was happily surprised when Maintenance Deputy General Manager Phil Adams handed him the James I. Hurley Maintenance Worker of the Year Award for outstanding service.

Harry O of Live 105 officiated as Master of Ceremonies with music provided by the Merle Saunders Trio as Muni's 1991 award winners enjoyed a buffet dinner and no-host bar while eagerly awaiting the drawing that would tell them whether they'd won one of the three coveted trips to Hawaii. The lucky winners turned out to be: L. Richard Billups from the Operators of the Month (Group I), Wayland Wong from the Quarterly Awards Winners and Monthly Maintenance Winners, (Group II) and Randall Wiley from the Operator and Maintenance Runners-up and miscellaneous award winners category (Group III).

Other prizes were also awarded to the following employees:

Continued on pg. 8

FLYNN RESIGNS FROM PUC/NEW COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED

A familiar face at the PUC will be sorely missed. Long-time Public Utilities Commissioner H. Welton Flynn has resigned after 21 years of service. Flynn, the first Afro-American ever appointed to the PUC, began his tenure in 1970, served under four mayors, and was elected president of the PUC six times by his fellow commissioners. He had served on the PUC longer than any other member of a city commission.

Photo: Carmen Magana

Former Mayor Art Agnos swears in new PUC commissioners Jefferson and Makras.

Flynn was instrumental in enabling women-owned and minority-owned firms to obtain city contracts through the PUC and helped guide several major Muni Capital Improvement Program projects including the $300 million Muni Metro construction, the $65 million Cable Car Restoration and the construction of the $27.3 million motor coach division named after him.

A group of Mr. Flynn's friends is organizing a testimonial dinner in his honor to be held in early March.

Subsequent to Mr. Flynn's resignation, former Mayor Art Agnos appointed two new commissioners to the PUC, replacing Flynn and Art Toupin, who had served on the commission for six years.

The new commissioners are real estate broker Victor Makras and James Jefferson, former president of the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce.

Makras, a native San Franciscan, has been a real estate broker since 1976. President of Makras Real Estate and former president of the 4000-member SF Association of Realtors, he is a staunch supporter of property rights who opposes vacancy control. He was formerly director of the California Association of Realtors from 1985 to 1991 and was appointed by former Mayor Agnos to the Board of Permit Appeals, serving from 1987 to 1991, during which time

Continued on pg. 8

NwS-F13-23

Management Message

Difficult Times

The whole country is going through a rocky period and while we in San Francisco have not been as hard hit as many other areas, we are not immune.

As most of you are aware, the City is facing a huge deficit and Mayor Frank Jordan is asking each city department to look deeply into their budgets for cuts. Budget cuts, plus early retirements, may make for difficult times ahead.

At the moment, nothing is clear cut. We don't know what the impact of belt tightening will be on Muni. What we do know is that our mandate is to provide transportation service to the people of San Francisco and that mandate will continue.

Whether we are operators, maintenance personnel or office staff, our prime responsiblity is to the people of San Francisco. Our recent Awards Drawing and Reception at the Westin St. Francis Hotel honoring the Muni's many 1991 awards winners and private sector contributors shows how dedicated Muni employees are and how willing our private sector friends are to support our Employee Recognition Program.

Although we may go through some tough times in 1992, I fully expect Muni employees to go the distance and continue their excellent performance.

In the meantime, I thank you for your dedication and perseverance.

Johnny Stein
General Manager

Editor's Box

Dear Reader,
Our apologies to Mary Sparks, Unsung Hero for the month of January, whose name was printed as Starks in the article honoring her.

Sincerely,

Anne Milner
Editor

JOB FILE

2110 Medical Records Clerk, Department of Public Health, $28,288-31,122 annually. Apply immediately. For information, call 821-5474; **2305 Psychiatric Technician**, Department of Public Health, $30,238-34,892 annually. Apply immediately. For information, call 821-5474; **2330 Anesthetist**, San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center, $79,222-85,670 annually. Apply immediately, for information, call 821-8145; **2493 Associate Radiologic Technologist, 2494 Staff Radiolgoic Technologist,** Department of Public Health, $38,038 and $40,300 annually. Apply immediately. For information, call 821-5474; **3214 Swimming Instructor**, Recreation and Park Department, $30,238-36,582 annually, Promotive applicants must apply by February 7, entrance applicants by February 14. For information, call 557-4864. **4220 Personal Property Auditor**, Tax Collector and Assessor's Office, $33,904-41,080. Applications distributed on February 7, must apply by February 14. For information, call 557-4875; **4222 Senior Personal Property Auditor,** Tax Collector and Assessor's Office, $38,402-46,566 annually. Applications distributed on February 7. Must apply by February 28. For information,

call 557-4875. For general employment information, call the Civil Service Exam Unit's 24-hour info number at 557-4889. For info on currently issued job announcements, call 557-4888. For PUC positions, call 554-1669.

EMPLOYEE NOTICE

The Naval Reserve Wants You! If you'd like a second career as a "Part-time Sailor," the Naval Reserve may be for you. Each year, thousands of men and women between the ages of 17 and 36 put on a Navy uniform and work for the Navy one weekend a month and two weeks a year while maintaining their civilian careers. These reservists not only receive an additional paycheck but $100,000 in life insurance, tuition assistance and travel benefits. Three main groups participate: veterans with previous military experience, high school graduates with limited job experience and experienced professionals, from office and construction workers to doctors, lawyers and chief executive officers. If you, a friend, co-worker or relative is interested in finding out if you qualify or how you might join, call Petty Officer Paul Jordan at 415-395-3146.

CONGRATS!

The Division Operators of the Month for January were:

Flynn:	Billy Gibson
Green:	San G. Mar
Kirkland:	Teddy Al Presher
Potrero:	Walter Collazos
Presidio:	Bob Johnson
Woods:	Clifton D. Jones

Unsung Hero

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Guy Wright

Director of System Safety

BACKGROUND: Guy was born and brought up in the Fresno area. He later moved to San Francisco where he attended San Francisco State University, obtaining a B.A. in Psychology.

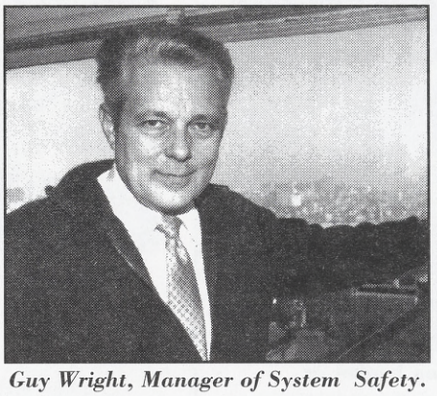

Photo: Gretchen Hildner

Guy Wright, Manager of System Safety.

Before coming to work for Muni as an operator in 1964, he worked in public relations for Columbia Pictures and as a chemist's assistant in a pharmaceutical lab. He joined Muni as a motorman, operating streetcars from the old Geneva Division and then buses until 1970 when he began a steady stream of promotions, which eventually brought him to his current position as Director of System Safety. Along the way, he was a divisional dispatcher, inspector, assistant chief inspector, claims investigator, and claims adjustor. In 1978, he became a member of the Muni Metro Task Force, identifiyng and resolving safety issues for the new Metro system, and was named Director of System Safety for all of Muni in the mid-80s. He is currently working on safety issues for the Muni Metro Turnaround Project, Advanced Train Control, and Cable Car Brake System. He also conducts on-going emergency drills for Muni Metro and is working with the Metropolitan Transportatin Commission on emergency response for all Bay Area transit systems.

FAMILY: Guy married his second wife Dianne in 1974. She is a native San Franciscan who teaches gifted fourth and fifth graders at Ulloa Elementary School. Guy has two children in their twenties from his previous marriage, Christopher, a truck driver in Fresno, and Cathleen, a psychologist for the U.S. Army in England.

WHY MY JOB IS IMPORTANT: A lot of effort goes toward seeing that as much safety is built into our vehicles and systems as is practical given both the current codes and industrial practices.

WHY I LIKE WHAT I DO: There's constant variety. I can work on up to 20 projects in a day and affect long range safety and efficiency in a number of areas.

SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME: I teach rail system safety and rail accident prevention for the Department of Transportation.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS: I have a commercial pilot's license and enjoy swimming and deep sea diving. I'm also a musician. I play the French horn, clarinet and piano. My first love is the human mind and exploring our abilities to actualize the mind's potential.

WORDS OF WISDOM: The many Muni employees who do their work quietly and efficiently without making waves and without recognition are the true Unsung Heroes.

Awards

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January Systemwide Operator of the Month

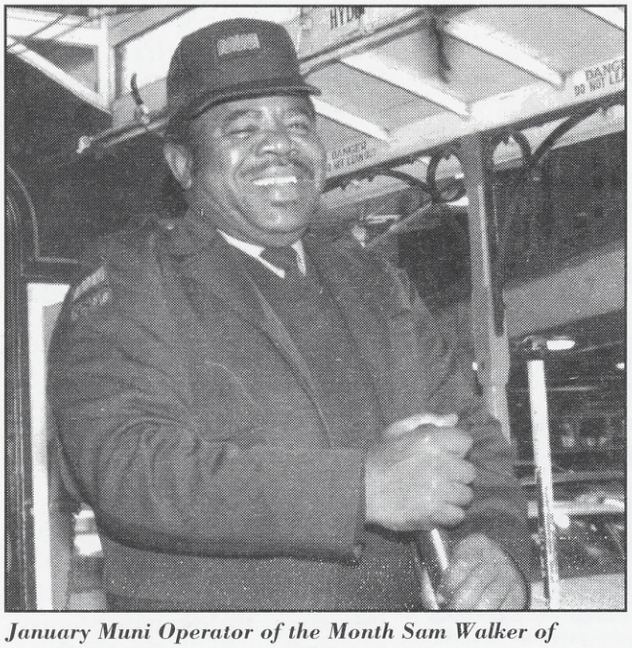

Photo: Ken Johnson

January Muni Operator of the Month Sam Walker of Cable Car.

Name:	Samuel Walker
Division:	Cable Car
Years with Muni:	30
Background:	
Birthplace:	Alabama
Education:	Sacred Heart High School; A.A., Merritt College, 1975
Previous Employment:	U.S. Air Force
Marital Status:	Married to Alyce, a licensed vocational nurse.
Children:	Jesse is in the U.S. Army; Sharon is a Muni station agent; Poasha is in high school; and William is in grade school.
Hobbies and Interests:	Fishing and outdoor sports
Words of Wisdom:	"Be kind and respectful to others."

January Systemwide Operator of the Month Runner-up

Name:	Suo W. Fong
Division:	Cable Car
Years with Muni:	13
Background:	
Birthplace:	China
Education:	Two years of college
Previous Employment:	Foreman at plastics warehouse
Marital Status:	Single
Hobbies and Interests:	Riding motorcycles

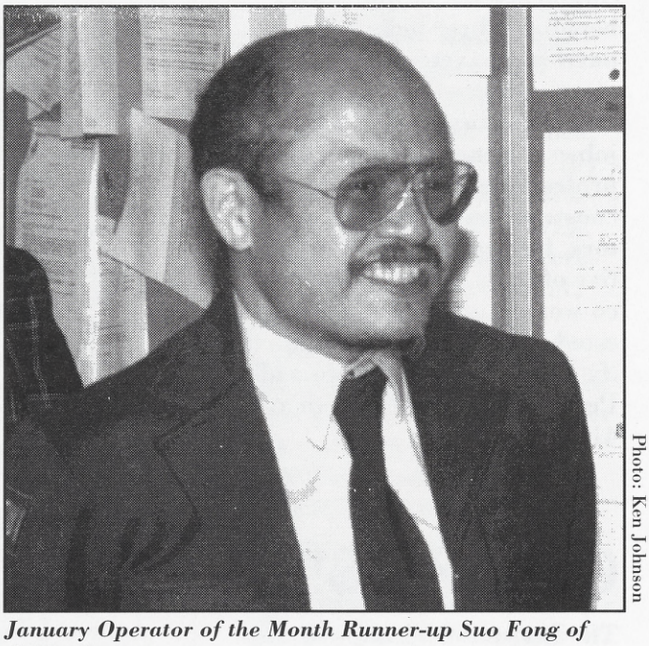

Photo: Ken Johnson

January Operator of the Month Runner-up Suo Fong of Cable Car.

Awards

Transit Supervisor of the Winter 1992 Quarter

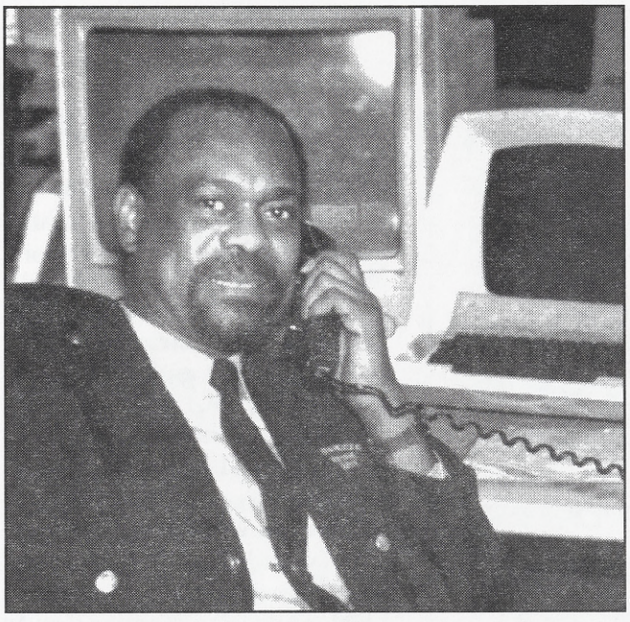

Photo: Kurt Wong

Transit Supervisor of the Winter Quarter Joseph Jones of Central Control.

Name:	Joseph Jones
Position:	Transit Supervisor
Department:	Central Control
Years with Muni:	23
Background:	
Birthplace:	Plaquemines, Louisiana
Education:	Fifth Ward 141 School and Southern University
Previous Employment:	U.S. Army for eight years and California and Hawaii Sugar.
Marital Status:	Wife, Paulette, works in the Individual Training Center at 6th Army Headquarters
Children:	Kevin, 22; Ryan, 13; and Jorelle, 10.
Hobbies and Interests:	Woodworking and oil painting.
Words of Wisdom:	"Sometimes it is better to give than to receive. Never blow the bridge down just because you have crossed it — you may need it again."

January Maintenance Worker of the Month

Name:	Mauro Benedetti
Division:	Flynn
Position:	Automotive Mechanic
Years with Muni:	Two
Background:	
Birthplace:	San Francisco
Education:	Skyline College, San Bruno
Previous Employment:	Shell Service Station, SF
Marital Status:	Married to Maria (housewife)
Children:	Daniel, three, and Gabriel, six months.
Hobbies/Interests:	Building and collecting models of vintage automobiles
Words of Wisdom:	"Give it your best."

Photo: Gretchen Hildner

January Maintenance Worker of the Month Mauro Benedetti of Flynn Division.

News

Sexual Harassment Hearing Held

On February 4th, the Board of Supervisors held a hearing on sexual harassment in the workplace sponsored by the Commission on the Status of Women. A follow-up meeting will be held at the Commission Office at 1170 Market, Sixth Floor at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 13th.

If you were unable to attend the original hearing, would like information about what transpired, or are interested in attending the follow-up meeting, please call Judith Klain at 252-2570.

Look in the March *Muni Memo* for further information on the hearings.

Welcome Aboard!

The following new operators completed operator training in December: Anthia Cody, Amilcar Yanes, Arthur Johnson, Ollice Moore, Tyrone Childs, Van Lee, Peter Tran, Chi-Hui Quach, Cynthia Dennis, Pattye Jo Sims, Curtis Rollins, Louis Reyes, John Winston, Tuong Luu, Stanley Williams, Edward Burge, Robert Davis, Edwin Naval, Eric Williams, Ryan Banks, Gerald Williams, Claudia Tucker, Fred Thomas, Kathryn Thompson, Gerald Webster.

Photo: Ken Johnson

Muni's newest operators.

Tanner Exhibit A Must!

Don't miss the De Young Museum's exhibit on the foremost painter Henry Ossawa Tanner, which started on December 14th and runs through March 1st.

Tanner is generally considered the best black painter that America has produced. The exhibit is a wide-ranging retrospective of his work. A generalist, whose subjects were both black and white, Tanner decided to become a painter when he was just 13. He was born in Pittsburgh in 1859 to a mother who had been born a slave and a father who was a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He spent many years living and painting in Paris, winning acclaim throughout Europe. His most famous painting is "The Banjo Lesson." The Tanner exhibit has been shown in Philadelphia, Detroit and Atlanta. San Francisco is its only West Coast stop.

Presidio Barbeque Cooking!

Don't forget the Presidio Division fundraising barbecue on February 12th in the Gilley Room between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are $10. The proceeds will purchase new games for the Gilley Room and new basketball and softball uniforms.

News

Transitions

The *Muni Memo* sends it condolences to the families and friends of the following people who passed away over the holidays:

Eugene Green, operator at Potrero Division since 1973.

Patrick Hodges, operator at Potrero Division since 1980.

Wes Mason, former Muni General Superintendent of Transportation, who trained Muni's first black motorman Audley Cole.

Fred Stindt, author of **San Francisco's Century of Street Cars,** which covered the routes and equipment of the United Railroads, Market Street Railway and Muni.

Joan Tracy, long-time PUC/MUNI employee who most recently was secretary to Chief Inspector Art Curtis.

Edmond Rassam, former engineer in the Philippines, operator and administrative assistant to Patt Lyle in the Plant Engineering Department.

Riders Speak

Dear Mr. Stein,

I am most thankful that the Muni staff has decided not to make any changes in the present schedule of the 43 bus line.

As an elderly and handicapped person living in the 200 block of Masonic Avenue, I am most thankful for your considered investigation of this proposal and your ultimate decision.

I use the 43 bus line quite often and I wish to thank the operators of this line for their thoughtful and efficient service.

Respectfully,

Joseph M. Clary

Dear Sirs:

Today I couldn't get on the 27-Bryant bus #8922 about 4 p.m. and the driver helped me very kindly. I am an old woman suffering a lot from my knees. My doctors advised me to walk and walk. Although I do it as much as I can, it is so difficult to do it. As soon as I got off the bus at Sutter Street, my tears rolled down. I felt very sentimental. Not many people are nice and many don't like old ones. I thank you Muni because you have such good people. Thanks a lot.

G. de Ortiz

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to commend two of your employees for the thoughtfulness and sensitivity above and beyond the call of duty.

I am director of a private school in SF. This morning, I received a telephone call from Muni dispatcher #8 informing me that one of our students had taken the wrong bus and would be about an hour late to school. Apparently she had asked the bus driver on line 22 for help and was given assistance to the correct bus. The driver also responded to her concerns about being late for school by offering to call us to explain — thus calming her so she could take the correct bus back to school without panicking.

In a time when so much of the news seems negative with the Muni system getting its fair share of criticism, this level of kindness and sensitivity toward a child is noteworthy and should be acknowledged! We tell our students to be respectful of the Muni personnel as their jobs are difficult and stressful and this incident goes a long way toward reinforcing that respect.

Sincerely,

Shirley Freeman
Director, Kittredge School

Aloha *Cont. from pg. 1*

$100 Bonds to Elvin Lester, Leoncio Saulney, and Emerito Cunanan; photograph of SF Scene to: Richard C. Smith, Anne Milner, and Jimmy McMullen; dinner for two: Ye Chu Lee, Sun Keng Chan, and Yiu Y. Woo; dinner for two: Eugene Jones, Chung Chi Tam, Caledonio Morla; Hornblower Yacht Cruise and dinner for two: Selwyn Colon and Henry Scholz; Gray Line Bus Tours: Alcus Jefferson, Jr., Tony Tufo, and Marjorie Wilhelm.

Special recognition for outstanding contributions to Muni went to Enid Lim, Muni liaisson to the Chinese community, Bruce Oka, Chair of Muni's Accessibility Advisory Committee and Casa Hispana, a Spanish translation service providing pro-bono translations. Muni also recognized the following groups, businesses and individuals for their contributions to the 1991 Employee Recognition Program: the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, SF Public Utilities Commissioners, Transport Workers Union, Locals 200 and 250A, Service Employees International Union, Local 790, Automotive Machinists Union, Local 1305, Cathedral Hill Hotel, Fairmont Hotel, Four Seasons Clift Hotel, SF Hilton Hotel, Holiday Inn Civic Center, Holiday Inn Union Square, Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf, Le Meridien, Sir Francis Drake Hotel, Stouffer Stanford Court Hotel, Westin St. Francis Hotel, Senator Milton Marks, Assemblyman John Burton, Gannett Shelter Posters, The Gray Line, Hornblower Dining Yachts, LaGrone's Insurance Agency, The Mark Reuben Gallery, SF Muni Employees Federal Credit Union, SF Muni Shopmen's Credit Union, TeleVu, and Transportation Displays Incorporated.

A special thanks to event organizer Sheila Mullen for making the 1991 Awards Reception such a success.

Photo: Carmen Magana

A happy operator L. Richard Billups is one of three Muni employees who won trips to Hawaii at the Annual Awards Reception.

Public Utilities General Manager Tom Elzey, Mayor Frank Jordan and General Manager Johnny Stein applaude Bruce Oka for his contributions to Muni's accessibility program.

Photo: Carmen Magana

Photo: Carmen Magana

Muni locksmith Lee Most, recipient of the James I. Hurley Maintenance Worker of the Year award, poses with James Hurley, Mayor Frank Jordan and Maintenance Deputy General Manager Phil Adams.

Flynn Resigns *Cont. from pg. 1*

he was elected vice president for the 1989-90 term.

James Jefferson is president and Chief Executive Officer of Jefferson Associates, a development planning and architectural firm. He was former head of the Coalition for Economic Equality where he was the author of the Minority/Women/Local Business Enterprise Ordinance that became law in 1984. In 1988, he was the first political appointee of then newly-elected Mayor Art Agnos, when he agreed to serve as president of the San Francisco Fire Commission. He contributed to overhauling the Fire Department management structure, which had been accused of racism.

Commissioners Gordon Chin and Nancy Walker have been elected 1992 PUC President and Vice President respectively.

Credits

The Muni Memo is published by the Community Affairs Department of Muni. Contributions and comments may be addressed to the Muni Memo, Room 238, 949 Presidio Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94115, telephone 923-6162.

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